A3275-2

TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, June 25, 1992 -- No unusual increases in rail freight traffic that might be attributed to pre-strike stockpiling were reported during the week ended June 20, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Carloadings totaled 345,139, up 2.5 percent from the corresponding week of 1991, an increase that also matches the increase in cumulative traffic for the first 25 weeks of 1992. The 6.5 percent increase in intermodal volume -- which is not included in carloadings -- was actually less than the 8.8 percent cumulative increase reported for the first 25 weeks of the year. Ton-mileage was up 4.9 percent for the week to 509.9 billion, slightly greater than the 4.8 percent gain reported in cumulative 25-week totals.

"This week's figures predate the strike that began at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday and do not reflect any unusual stockpiling," said Dr. Harvey A. Levine, vice president of the AAR's economics and finance department.

He noted the similarity in the percentage increases in carloadings for both the week and 25-week period, adding:

"Furthermore, the percentage change in weekly volume for many individual commodities is similar to what it is on a cumulative basis -- coal traffic down, with autos, paper and chemicals up. Two notable exceptions are the -1.2 percent and -8.7 percent declines in grain and lumber traffic during the week -- the latter a reflection of the drop in housing starts."

For the first 25 weeks of 1992, carloadings totaled 8,089,635, up 2.5 percent from the same period of 1991. Intermodal volume totaled 3,107,794 trailers and containers, up 8.8 percent. Ton-mileage was estimated at 509.9 billion, up 4.8 percent.

Railroads reporting to the AAR account for 94 percent of carloadings and 97 percent of intermodal volume.

(more)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 20, 1992

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING JUNE 20, 1992	COMPARISON WITH SAME WEEK OF 1991	CHANGE	COMPARISON WITH PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	26,164	26,486	-1.2 %	25,132	4.1 %
Farm Products, Ex. Grain	2,060	1,936	6.4	2,261	-8.9
Metallic Ores	21,576	19,028	13.4	17,581	22.7
Coal	127,299	128,946	-1.3	128,116	-0.6
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	15,809	14,550	8.7	15,023	5.2
Nonmetallic Minerals	9,618	10,064	-4.4	9,941	-3.2
Grain Mill Products	10,850	9,930	7.3	10,347	2.9
Food & Kindred Products	9,024	9,155	-1.4	9,428	-4.3
Primary Forest Products	9,456	9,559	-1.1	9,061	4.4
Lumber & Wood Products	5,891	6,451	-8.7	5,832	1.0
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	10,780	10,196	5.7	10,736	0.4
Chemicals	28,751	25,889	11.1	29,238	-1.7
Petroleum Products	5,861	5,352	9.5	5,850	0.2
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	10,503	9,928	5.8	9,859	6.5
Coke	5,722	4,949	15.6	5,538	3.3
Metals & Products	9,564	9,611	-0.5	8,899	7.5
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	20,210	18,910	6.9	20,611	-1.9
Waste & Scrap Materials	8,781	8,059	9.0	9,231	-4.9
All Other Carloads	7,420	7,669	-3.2	7,738	-4.1
Total	**345,139**	**336,668**	**2.5 %**	**340,422**	**1.4 %**

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES

TRAFFIC	WEEK ENDING JUNE 20, 1992			CUMULATIVE: 25 WEEKS ENDING JUNE 20, 1992		
	1992	1991	CHANGE	1992	1991	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	**345,139**	**336,668**	**2.5 %**	**8,099,635**	**7,893,754**	**2.5 %**
Intermodal Traffic Originated						
Trailers	65,534	64,050	2.3	1,543,222	1,477,995	4.4
Containers	65,274	58,804	11.0	1,564,572	1,377,393	13.6
Total	**130,808**	**122,854**	**6.5**	**3,107,794**	**2,855,388**	**8.8**
Estimated Ton-Miles						
Class I Railroads (Billions)	**21.4**	**20.4**	**4.9 %**	**509.9**	**486.6**	**4.8 %**

AARt - 062592